His

Maieſties Anſvver

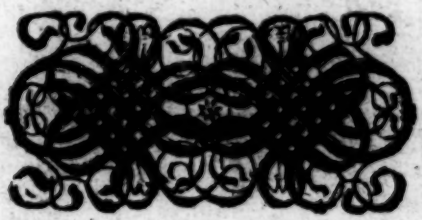
To a

PETITION

Preſented to him at Yorke,

Aprill, 18. 1642.

By the Earle of Stamford, Maſter Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Maſter HUNGERFORD.



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His *Majeſties* Anſwer to a Petition preſented to Him at *Yorke*, April 18. 1642.

WE are ſo troubled and aſtoniſhed to finde the unexpected reception, and miſunderſtanding of Our Meſſage of the eight of April, concerning Our Iriſh journey, that being ſo much diſappointed of the approbation and thankes We looked for to that declaration; We have great cauſe to doubt, whether it bee in Our power to ſay or doe any thing which ſhall not fall within the like interpretation. But as We have in that Meſſage called God to witneſſe the ſincerity of the profeſſion of Our only ends for the undertaking that journey; ſo We muſt appeal to all Our good Subjects, and the whole world, whether the reaſons alledged againſt that journey be of weight to ſatisfie Our underſtanding, or the counſell preſented to diſſwade Us from it, bee full of that duty as is like to prevaile over Our affections.

For Our reſolving of ſo great a Buſineſſe without the advice of Our Parliament, We muſt remember you how often by Our Meſſages We made the ſame offer, if you ſhould adviſe Us thereunto; to which you never gave Us the leaſt anſwer, but in your late declaration told Us, That ye were not to be ſatisfied with words; ſo that We had reaſon to conceive you rather avoided (out of regard to Our perſon) to give Us counſell to run that hazard, then that you diſapproved the inclination. And what greater comfort, or ſecurity can the Proteſtants of Chriſtendom receive, then by ſeeing a Proteſtant King venture & engage His perſon for the defence of that Profeſſion, and the ſuppreſſion of popery, to which we ſolemnly proteſted in that meſſage, never to grant a toleration upon what pretence ſoever, or an abolition of

any of the Lawes there in force against the professors of it. And when We consider the great calamities, and unheard of cruelties Our poor Protestant Subjects in that Kingdom have undergone for the space of neare, or full six monthes, the growth and increase of the strength of those barbarous Rebells, and the evident probability of forrain supplies, (if they are not speedily suppressed) the very slow succours hitherto sent them from hence; that the Officers of several Regiments who have long time been allowed entertainment from you for that service, have not raised any supply or succour for that Kingdom; that many troops of horse have long lien neer Chester untransported; that the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, on whom We relied principally for the conduct and managing of affaires there, is still in this Kingdome, notwithanding Our earnestnesse expressed that he should repaire to his Command: And when We consider the many and great scandalls raised upon Our Selfe by report of the Rebells, and not sufficiently discountenanced here, notwithstanding so many professions of Ours; and had seene a Booke lately printed by the order of the House of Commons, entituled, *A Remonstrance of divers remarkable passages concerning the Church and Kingdom of Ireland*, Wherein some examinations are set downe, which (how improbable or impossible soever) may make an impression in the mindes of many of our weak subjects; and lastly, when We duly weigh the dishonour which will perpetually lie upon this Kingdome, if full and speedy reliefe be not dispatched thither, We could not, nor cannot thinke of a better way to discharge Our duty to Almighty God, for the defence of the true Protestant profession, or to manifest Our affection to Our three Kindomes for their preservation, then by engaging Our person in this expedition, as many of Our royall Progenitors have done even in forraine parts, upon causes of lesse importance and piety, with great honour to themselves, and advantage to this Kingdome; and therefore We expected at least thankes for such Our inclination.

For

For the danger of Our person, We conceive it necessary and worthy of a King to adventure His life to preserve His Kingdome, neither can it be imagined, that We will sit still, and suffer Our Kingdomes to be lost, and our good Protestant Subjects to be massacred, without exposing Our owne Person to the utmost hazard for their relieſe and preſervation; Our life when it was most pleasant, being nothing so pretious to Us, as it is, and shall bee to governe and preserve Our people with Honour and Justice.

For any encouragement to the Rebells, because of the reports they raised: We cannot conceive that the Rebells are capable of a greater terror, then by the presence of their lawfull King in the head of an Army to chastise them: Besides it will be an unspeakable advantage to them, if any reports of theirs could hinder Us from doing any thing which were fit for Us to doe, if such reports were not raised; This would quickly teach them in this jealous age, to prevent by such reports any other persons comming against them whom they had no mind should be so emploied.

We marvell that the adventurers, whose advantage was a principal motive (next the reason before mentioned to Us, should so much mistake Our purpose, whose interest we conceive must be much improved by the expedition We hope (by Gods blessing) to use in this Service, this being the most probable way for the speedy conquest of the Rebells, their lands are sufficiently secured by Act of Parliament.

We think not Our Selfe kindly used, that the addition of so few men to your Leavies (for a Guard to Our person in Ireland) should be thought fit for your refusall, and much more that having used so many cautions in that Message, both in the smallnesse of the number, In Our having raised none untill your answer, In their being to be raised onely neare their place of Shipping, In their being there to be armed, and that, not till they were ready to be shipped; In the provision, by the oaths that

none of them should be Papists (all which appeares sufficient to destroy all grounds of jealousie, of any force intended by them in opposition to the Parliament, or favour to any malignant party) any suspition should notwithstanding be grounded upon it.

Neither can it be understood, that when we recommended the managing of that War to you, that We intended to exclude Our Selfe, or not to be concerned in your Counsells, that if We found any expedient (which in Our conscience or understanding We thought necessary for that great worke) We might not put it in practice. We looke upon you as our great Councell, whose advice We alwaies have and will (with great regard and deliberation) weigh and consider: But We looke upon Our Selfe as neither deprived of Our understanding, or devested of any right We had, if there were no Parliament sitting. We cal'd you together by Our owne Writ and Authority (without which you could not have met) to give Us faithfull Counsel about Our great affairs: But We resigned not up Our owne interest and freedome. We never subjected Our self to your absolute determination. We have alwaies weighed your Counsells, as proceeding from a body entrusted by Us and when We have dissented from you, We have returned you the reasons, which have prevailed with our conscience and understanding, with that candor, as a Prince should use towards His Subjects, and that affection which a father can expresse to his children. What application hath been used to rectifie Our understanding by reasons, or what motives have been given to perswade Our affections, We leave all the world to judge: And then we must tell you, howsoever a major part may binde you in matter of opinion, we hold our self (and we are sure the Law and the constitution of the Kingdom hath alwaies held the same) as free to dissent (till our reason be convinced for the general good) as if you delivered no opinion. For our journey it selfe, the circumstances of your Pe- [illegible] ch, as we know not well what answer to returne,

or

or whether we were beſt to give any. That part which pretends to carry reaſon with it, doth no way ſatisfie us: The other which is rather reprehenſion & menace, then advice, cannot ſtagger us. Our anſwer therefore is, That We ſhall be very glad to finde the worke of Ireland ſo eaſie as you ſeeme to think it, which did not ſo appeare by any thing knowne to Us when We ſent our meſſage. And though we will never refuſe, or be unwilling to venture Our perſon for the good and ſafety of our people, We are not ſo weary of our life as to hazard it impertinently: and therefore ſince you ſeem to have received advertiſements of ſome late and great ſucceſſes in that Kingdome, We will ſtay ſome time to ſee the event of thoſe, and not purſue this reſolution, till We have given you a ſecond notice. But if We finde the miſerable condition of our poor ſubjects of that Kingdome be not ſpeedily relieved, we will (with Gods aſſiſtance) viſit them with ſuccours as our particular credit and intereſt can ſupply us with, if you refuſe to joine with us. And We doubt not but the leavies we ſhall make (in which we will obſerve punctually the former, and all other cautions, as may beſt prevent all fears and jealouſies, and to uſe no power but what is legall) will be ſo much to the ſatisfaction to our ſubjects, as no perſon will dare preſume to reſiſt Our commands, and if they ſhould, at their peril. In the mean time we hope our forwardneſſe ſo remarkeable to that ſervice, ſhall be notorious to all the world, and that all ſcandalls laid on Us in that buſineſſe ſhall be clearly wiped away.

We were ſo carefull that Our journey into Ireland ſhould not interrupt the proceedings of Parliament, nor deprive Our Subjects of any Acts of Juſtice, or further Acts of Grace, for the reall benefit of Our people, that Wee made a free offer of leaving ſuch Power behinde, as ſhould not onely bee neceſſary for the Peace and Safety of the Kingdome, but fully provide for the happy progreſſe of the Parliament. And therefore Wee cannot but wonder, ſince ſuch Power hath beene alwaies left here by Commiſſion for the Government of this

this Kingdome, when Our Progenitors have been out of the same during the sitting of Parliaments; and since your selves desired that such a power might be left here by Us at Our last going into Scotland, what Law of the Land have you now found to dispence with you, from submitting to such authority legally derived from Us in Our absence, and to enable you to govern this Kingdome by your owne meer authority?

For Our returne towards London, We have given you so full an answer in Our late Declaration, and in answer to your Petition presented to Us at Yorke the 26. of March last, that We know not what to adde, if you will not provide for Our security with you, nor agree to remove to another place, where there may not be the same danger to Us. Wee expected that (since We have beene so particular in the causes and grounds of Our feares) you should have sent Us word, that you had published such Declarations against future tumults, and unlawfull assemblies, and taken such courses for the suppressing of seditious Sermons and Pamphlets, that our fears of that kinde might be laid aside, before you should presse Our returne.

To conclude, We could wish that you would (with the same strictnesse and severity) weigh and examine your messages and expressions to Us, as you doe those ye receive from us; for We are very confident, that if you examine Our Rights and Priviledges, by what Our Predecessors have enjoyed, and your owne addresses, by the usuall courses of your Ancestors, ye will finde many expressions in this Petition warranted only by your owne authority, which indeed We forbear to take notice of, or to give answer to, lest We should be tempted (in a just indignation) to expresse a greater passion then We are yet willing to put on. God in his good time (We hope) will so informe the hearts of all Our subjects, that we shall recover from the mischief and danger of this distemper; on whose good pleasure We will wait with patience and humility.

FINIS.